

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

July 2018



JULY PROGRAM

SPORADIC-E PROPAGATION ON 6 METERS

BY: ERIC GRUFF, NC6K

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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President:

Ron Richards, WB1EAZ

(978) 764-4394

ronaldrichards@gmail.com

Vice President/Pgm Chair:

Ron Rosson, N6XT

n6xtus@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Randy Standke, KQ6RS

(619) 890-2697

r55stan@gmail.com

Past President:

Mike Binder, NA6MB

(858) 673-9201

NA6MB@arrl.net

Board of Directors:

Lou Poanessa, KW6Q

(619) 990-5869

poanessal@gmail.com

Eric Gruff, NC6K

(858) 735-0320

nc6k@arrl.net

Bud Hennesy, AE6BH

AE6BH@cox.net

Ladder:

John Barcroft, K6AM

k6am@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Glen Christensen, AI6RR

Historian:

Glenn Rattmann, K6NA

(760) 749-3936

k6na@cts.com

Bulletin Editor:

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

(619) 602-2653

bob@farkaly.com

k9rhy@arrl.net

From the Prez . . .

Ron, WB1EAZ



It's time for my first newsletter as President. First of all, I would like to thank the members for the support and suggestions provided to me as VP/Program Chair over the past year. Going forward, with recent past presidents NA6MB, Mike; W6HDG, Howard; and John, NA6L, it will be tough to fill their shoes but I will try my best.

Now that the KH1/KH7Z DXpedition is over, I hope all got the new one and/or band slots they wanted. It certainly appears that the DXpedition was a significant success and FT-8 DXpedition mode helped many work a new one/or band slot. I noted while listening on 40M that there seemed to be many calls that the DXpedition called, but whether due to band conditions, or the calling station not being setup, or whatever, did not complete the contact. I wonder how many stations were called on FT-8 with the contact not being completed? It seemed to me that the ratio was significant. One of the issues noted was that when the DXpedition called CQ, they used full power, but when working stations, many times they were down to 20% power due to the channelization setup. I noted that it appeared that once the DXpedition called someone, the DX frequently replied twice and then, if there was no copy, went on to call others. I think this should be looked at as most DXpeditions try to complete a contact if they hear the station calling clearly..

On another topic, a growing trend is KiwiSDR direction finding. If one has a KIWI SDR receiver, then they can use the TDoA (Time Difference of Arrival) for direction finding. This could be helpful in many different ways. See rtl-sdr.com for further details. The Baker Island DXpedition certainly stirred the bands with contacts made on 10-160 meters. With September around the corner, there should be a noticeable increase of activity on the bands. Will it be still FT-8 or will CW and SSB come into more use?

I had my own excitement this past month, working 4W6VA for an ATNO. So, until the meeting, 73 and good DX

Ron, WB1EAZ

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes, June 27, 2018

At 6:32 pm Mike Binder, NA6MB called the meeting to order. 34 members and one guest were in attendance. Our guest was Don Miller, W9WNV.

Old business – The May minutes and Treasurer Report were approved.

New business – None.

At 6:36 pm we started the roundtable discussion.

At 7:04 pm we took a break.

At 7:22 pm, Don Miller, W9WNV gave a presentation on Comparing DXpeditions of today with those of yesterday.

At 8:37 pm the meeting was adjourned.

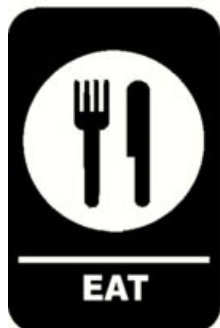


Treasurer's Report

Income for June:	\$80 for member dues.
Expenses for May/June:	\$26.89 for May and June Speaker dinners.
Statement Balance on 6/27/2018	\$6,025.28

Randy, KQ6RS

LIFE IS SIMPLE



VP Report

Ron, N6XT

I would like to thank you all for electing me the SDDXC Vice President.

The bands have been terrible. I have been working some FT8 and a few Q's on CW.

The Summer Bash will be held at the home of George Jacobs, N6VNI on August 12th, 2018.

George T Jacob, Jr
1901 El Portal Dr
La Habra, CA 90631

FYI: I'm in the process of selling my house and purchasing another one. That should free up time for next month's Bulletin. I'm also in the process of lining up presenters for future meetings.

July Program

Understanding Sporadic-E Propagation on 6 Meters (or at least pretending you do)

BY: ERIC GRUFF, NC6K

A particularly pertinent and seasonal topic.

73,

Ron, N6XT



2018 Summer Bash Notice

The 2018 Summer Bash will be held on August 12th at the QTH of George Jacobs, N6VNI

Please volunteer to help. We cannot do it without you!

1901 El Portal Dr, La Habra, CA 90631



Some pictures from the 2017 Bash

If you are attending and/or volunteering to help, please RSVP to KC6TOD@hotmail.com

THE SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 6 METERS

7/18	7/17	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	N6CW	27	101	101	103	-
2.	2.	N7CW	21	69	69	80	-
3.	3.	NA6L	17	44	44	52	+12
4.	4.	K6ZH	14	28	29	29	-
5.	-	NC6K	?	14	14	19	NEW
6.	5.	WB6BFG	11	15	15	15	-
7.	6.	N6VS	12	13	13	15	-
8.	7.	W6YI	11	10	10	15	-
9.	-	K0XB	4	12	12	14	NEW
10.	8.	K6AM	?	9	9	11	-

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 160 METERS

7/18	7/17	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	K6XT	37	227	230	230	-
2.	2.	W6YI	38	204	207	214	+5
3.	3.	K6NA	35	?	?	205	-
4.	4.	W5BN	?	187	187	190	-
5.	6.	N7CW	35	145	145	176	-
6.	7.	K6AM	?	137	139	142	+2
7.	8.	K0XB	26	90	91	93	+2
8.	-	NA6L	17	56	56	65	NEW
9.	9.	K5OA	5	30	30	55	-
10.	10.	N6KI	?	3	3	49	-

A few updates to report on 6. John, NA6L, has been busy with 12 new ones and new member, NC6K hits the ground running with 19. As the summer season heats up, you should see more activity over the next few months every day to somewhere, with occasional openings to South America, the Caribbean, and even Japan. Meanwhile, 160 remains fairly stable with Jim, W6YI inching his way to the top. Much to the chagrin of some traditionalists, much easier to make FT8 contacts count for these lists. I expect to see some nice jumps from you FT8 geeks on these bands.

Both these bands are now being reported together since they both represent the ultimate challenge for the DX'er. Each takes the patience of a saint to wait out the ever-so-rare opening that may only last 5 minutes and be missed if someone in the right spot is not transmitting at just the right time. Our hat's off to the top 10 winners in these categories.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, RTTY, phone, and CW. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM

SDDXC RESULTS 2017 CQ WORLDWIDE CW DX CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
M2	CE3CT (N5ZO et al)	11,373,408	6,714	606	# 5 S. AMERICA # 17 WORLD
SO - HP	K6NA	230,374	378	229	# 7 W6
SO - HP	N6KI	28,470	150	78	
SA - HP	N6CW	391,194	496	309	# 9 W6
SA - HP	N6NC@N5ZO	272,796	453	254	# 13 W6
SA - HP	K5OA	195,975	401	225	
SA - HP	W6JBR	24,722	105	94	
SA - LP	WN6K	335,070	518	255	# 2 W6, # 5 ZONE 3
SO - HP 15M	W6YA	179,424	594	112	# 1 ZONE 3, #6 WORLD

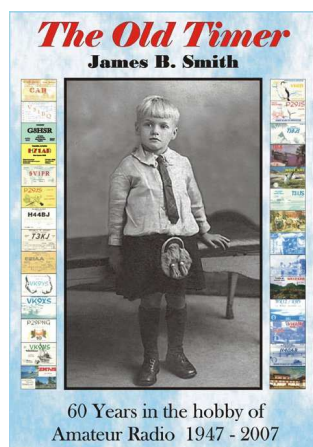
From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



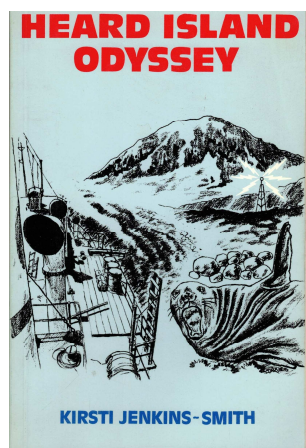
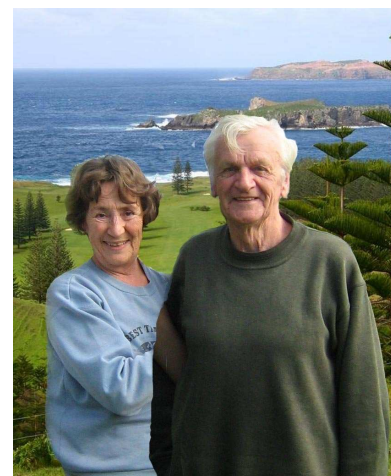
You Old Timer DXers (you know who you are) will, no doubt, remember my dear friend, Jim Smith, VK9NS of Norfolk Island, Australia. Jim became a Silent Key on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, after a short illness. He was 80 years old at the time of his passing.

Jim was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame in April, 1986. One of his last projects was writing his autobiography, *The Old Timer*.



Jim was first licensed in 1947 as VS1BQ in Singapore. He held a number of calls, including CAR (VU4 Nicobar), VS1BQ, DL2TH, HZ1AB, MP4BER, 9V1PR, P29JS, VR4BJ, H44BJ, G3HSR, C21AA, T3KJ, T3AJ, VK9YS, VK9XS, VK9NS, VK0JS/VK9N, 9M8JS, VK0JS, ZL0AAB, ZM7JS, ZL1BUN, T30JS, T1JS, T32JS, T33JS, A35MR, A51JS, S21U, WR1Z, WR1Z/KH9, S21ZA, VK9WW, A35MR/p, A51MOC, VU2JBS, NO1Z/KH1, VK9WW, WR1Z/KH8, H40AB and A52JS, among others. Jim was born in Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Jim's XYL, Kirsti, VK9NL, was also quite active and joined Jim on many of his expeditions. She authored the book about their 1983 DXpedition to Heard Island, titled *Heard Island Odyssey*.



When I read *Heard Island Odyssey*, I was reminded why Scotsmen have earned their reputation of being, well, frugal (to use the kindest word I can think of). You decide: Imagine being at sea in the "Roaring 40's" and running out of fuel because you refused to "fill 'er up" before casting off. I am not kidding. The Heard Island expedition, in a 160 foot ship named the SS Cheynes II, ran out of fuel on the way home. The team rigged sails made from canvas tarps and "sailed" for days until they were able to rendezvous with the ship's owner and refuel. If I was part of that expedition, I would not have been happy.

When not DXpeditioning, Jim conducted the Heard Island Net on Friday nights (local time for me—about 0600Z) on 14,222 MHz. I checked in frequently.

The Heard Island DX Association, Incorporated (H.I.DX.A. Inc.) was formed in 1980 by Jim (then P29JS) to put VK0/H on the air as VK0NS and VK0NL. VK0NS was an ATNO for me during the 1983 operation. I read the book about the expedition years later. What a story!

In late 1983 the HIDXA Club was formed and run from Norfolk Island as a registered non-profit making organization by Jim Smith (VK9NS) and Kirsti Jenkins-Smith (VK9NL). Contributions from the Members gave the Club the financial base it used to enable further DXpeditions. I became member #175 in 1985. The Club published a monthly newsletter. Shown is one of the first editions I received as a member in December, 1985.



One of the HIDXA-sponsored expeditions to which I was pleased to contribute was an early effort to put Howland Island (KH1)

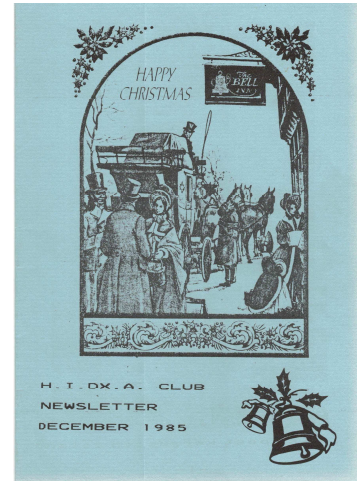
on the air in 1988. Leafing through the August, 1988 issue of the HIDXA Newsletter, I saw that the cost of that operation was \$36,000 (in 1988 dollars, of course). The most recent KH1/KH7Z operation had a budget of over \$400,000 (in 2018 dollars). Tempus fugit.



The cover picture shows Jim as a United Airlines Captain. I often wondered how Jim travelled as extensively as he did. He frequently participated in DX club meetings around the world (W9DXCC, Visalia, NCDXF, various JA and European meetings, etc.). I

wondered how he made that happen. While unable to confirm Jim's UAL Captain status, it would certainly explain his ability to travel so extensively. I found the cover picture on the internet (so it MUST BE true!), but Jim is pretty long in the tooth while sitting in the cockpit, so the picture is more than a bit suspect.

I may write more about Jim in a future edition. I fondly remember him as a great DXer. That's one of the finest compliments I can pay any ham.



A few years later, in October, 1990, I was pleased to host several Siberian hams in my Libertyville, IL home. I heard from Jim that he would be travelling through O'Hare airport (ORD) while my friends Yuri, Vlad and Helga would be in town. We drove to the airport and had a memorable eyeball QSO with Jim. (That's Jim in the first row on the right.) What a great experience!



Bob, K9RHY

In Memorium: Joseph F Hypnarowski , W6VNR/ZF2AH



Gayle, K6GO and Mike, NA6MB were in the Cayman Islands operating in the IARU and NAQP-RTTY Contests. They attended the June meeting of the Cayman Amateur Radio Society, CARS. Pictured above are the CARS members and meeting guests: Mike, ZF2NA, Roger, ZF1RC, Gayle, ZF2GO, Randy, ZF1ZZ, Danny, ZF1DM, Ray, ZF2BR, Andrew, ZF1EJ, John, ZF1DJ, Phil, ZF1PB, Jarod, ZF1YA

A moment of silence was held in memory of Joe, W6VNR / ZF2AH. He was a long time member of both the San Diego DX Club and the Cayman Amateur Radio Society. He will be missed.